A CASE OF HEMIPLEGIA OF RIGHT SIDE AND HEMIOPIA OF LEFT, CAUSED BY PENETRATING WOUND OF BRAIN.[1]

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THE interest which attaches to the case which I will show you does not depend so much upon the symptoms exhibited as upon the unusual manner in which they were acquired. The history is as follows:

A. S., æt. thirty, and a native of England, was until July, 1889, in good health. At that time he was pitching hay on to a wagon which at the time was nearly loaded. While elevating a fork-full of hay, and with face upturned, the boy upon the load let drop his fork, one prong of which entered the left orbit to the outer side of the eye. He became immediately unconscious, and Dr. Reeves, of Medford, N. J., who saw him immediately after, gives me the following account of his condition at that time: He says the prong of the fork had penetrated the brain at least two inches, and as the man fell, the fork, still in the brain, made a sidelong swing of at least 90°; he was unconscious and paralysis of the right side was noted, the condition of unconsciousness lasted several days; upon regaining consciousness he was only able to converse in the Yorkshire dialect, which he had not used for about fifteen years previous; this condition lasted for three months, after which the power of expression in ordinary English returned, although he still has to use the Yorkshire dialect to a slight extent. There never was any loss of the power of understanding what was said to him in English, and he could read. The temperature did not rise at any time above 101° Fahr., and after ten days became normal. Since the accident he has regained considerable power and his condition at present is as follows: Hemiplegia of the right side, muscles slightly wasted, with some tendency to contractures, but can walk fairly well, some use of arm, slight paresis of right side of face, no sensory paralysis, knee-jerk increased upon the right side. The examination of his eyes by Dr. Wallace showed the follow-

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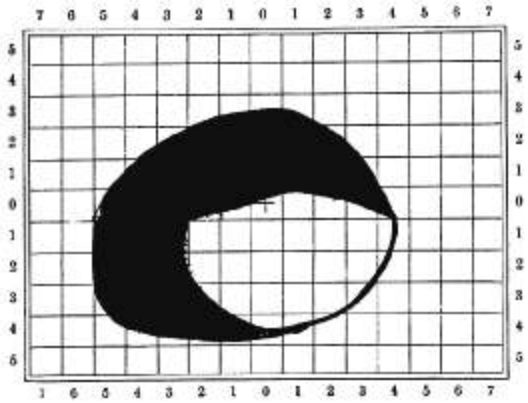
ing conditions: In the right eye vision is $^{6}/_{7}$, and the eye ground and field are normal. In the left eye, vision, $\frac{6}{150}$, nerve completely atrophic, and has a filled-in appearance, color greenish-gray, sharply cuts dual ring; around the nerve is an uncompleted ring, very narrow and shining white in color. There is a scar near the outer canthus, with a point of black discoloration in the conjunctiva. The field of vision is contracted upon the temporal side, and the superior half is blind.

There is no difficulty with hearing. There is no history of syphilis, and 5 grs. of potas. iodid. three times daily cause iodism.

These symptoms I think were caused in this way: the prong of the fork entered the orbit and then divided the



lower and some of the inner fibres of the optic nerve posterior to the entrance of the central artery of the retina, then probably passed upwards, punctured the roof of the orbit and entering the brain injured the corpus striatum and probably some of the motor fibres of the internal capsule, or possibly caused a hæmorrhage there. The aphiasic condition was probably due to the shock sustained by the brain. Another interesting point in this case is that no brain abscess resulted, also that no other structures were injured. For the opportunity of showing this case I am indebted to Dr. H. M. Fussel.